

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 420

By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to commemorate fifty years of essential public service by the Jefferson County Rescue Squad.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize significant milestones in community life and public service; and

WHEREAS, for fifty years, the Jefferson County Rescue Squad has provided first aid and first responder assistance to county residents and outdoor enthusiasts alike; and

WHEREAS, after the TVA constructed two dams and two accompanying lakes in Jefferson County in the 1940's, fishing, boating, and other lake recreation gained great popularity in the area; and

WHEREAS, this increase in lake recreation unfortunately resulted in more drownings and boating accidents, yet the citizens of Jefferson County found themselves without a rescue squad; and

WHEREAS, this lack of basic emergency medical services caused concern among various citizens, but most importantly, Homer Ricker of Strawberry Plains, who was instrumental in organizing and founding the Jefferson County Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, amid resounding community support, the Jefferson County Rescue Squad was founded in 1963, and Mr. Ricker was elected its first Captain to lead 49 dedicated men; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Rescue Squad charter members were Roy Brown, R.E. "Toad" Farrar, Charles Franklin, Jimmy Miller, Garland McCoig, Earl Ketner, Ben Webb, Don Satterfield, Homer Ricker, Thurman Loveday, A.C. Moore, and Charles "Bush" Lemmons; and

WHEREAS, additional elected officers included First Lieutenant Pat Holt, Second Lieutenant Tom Eslinger, Sergeant Avery Hodgson, Chaplain Bill Howell, Secretary Hubert

Brown, Treasurer Bruce Frazier, Historians Curtis French and George Higgins, and Unit Director R.E. Farrar; and

WHEREAS, through the generous support of everyday citizens and the technical and training assistance provided by neighboring counties' rescue squads, the Jefferson County Rescue Squad soon became one of the most dedicated and most capable units in Tennessee, and its current members continue this remarkable legacy of outstanding public service today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the Jefferson County Rescue Squad for providing the highest quality emergency medical services to its community and commemorate its fiftieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank the members of the Jefferson County Rescue Squad, both past and present, for their commitment to public service, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.